compensatory afforestation on equivalent non-forest land has also been relaxed in respect of proposals involving construction of link roads, small water works, minor irrigation works, school building, dispensaries, hospitals, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government which directly benefit the people of the area, provided diversion of forest area does not exceed 20ha. wherein the compensatory afforestation can be done over the degraded forest land. For speedy clearance of projects under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the powers have also been delegated to the Regional Offices of the Ministry. The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests is competent to finally dispose off the proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. except in respect of proposals for reguiarisation of encroachment and mining. The powers have also been delegated to the RCCF for proposals involving forest area above 5 ha. and upto 20 ha. for examination in consultation with state Advisory Group and such proposals alongwith views of the Advisory Group recorded by RCCF are sent to the Ministry for final decision only.

The Chief Minister is being informed accordingly.

Making Dwelling Unit a Fundamental Right

1356. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, while addressing a function in New Delhi on the World Habitat Day on October 7, 1996, had said that the right to own a decent dwelling should be made a fundamental right; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto, indicating the estimated number of dwelling units required in urban and rural areas to provide a dwelling unit to each family, without an abode?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is committed to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to adequate standard of living, through a number of concrete measures outlined in the National Housing Policy. Estimates made by the National Building Organisation (NBO) based on 1991 Census data reveal a housing shortage of 21.56 million dwelling units as of 1.3.96, comprising 7.71 million units in urban areas and 13.85 million in ruial areas.

Encouraging the use of Solar Energy

1357. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete steps have been taken to encourage the use of solar energy in some of States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government have launched any programmes to encourage popularisation of solar energy system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith their results, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER & MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) The Government is encouraging the use of solar energy through socially oriented and market oriented schemes covering solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy products in all the States and Union Territories. The subsidies and soft loans

provided to users of solar energy systems are listed in Statement-I. *(see* below)

A number of fiscal and other incentives are also available to the manufacturers and users of solar devices. Among these are 100% depreciation to commercial organisations for income tax purposes, exemption from excise duty, exemption from sales tax in several states and concessional rates of custom duty on imported materials etc. Training programmes, Demonstrations and publicity activites are also being supported. In additional, solar shops are being opened in major cities of the country to make solar products easily available to users. The state-wise details of solar energy systems installed in various states and Union Territories till 30.9.96 are given in Statement-II.

Details of Subsidies and Soft Loans Provided to Users of Solar Energy Systems

1.	Solar Photovoltaic Systems	*Central Subsidy*	*Soft Loan*
(0	Home lighting, street lighting & village level small power plants.	50% of ex-works cost of systems	—
(ii)	Solar lanterns	Rs. 1500/- each	—
(iii)	Solar photovoltaic water pumps	Rs. 125/- per peak watt of photovoltaic capacity subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,50,000'-	Upto Rs.l,00,000/- at 5% interest rate, in addition to subsidy.
2.	Solar Thermal Systems		At a maximum of
	(i) Solar water heating systems		5% interest rate through financial intermediaries of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and at 5.5% from Canara Bank.
	(a) Domestic systems		
(b)	Institutional Systems		At 5% to non-profit institutions directly from IPEDA.
(c)	Industrial systems	—	At 8.3% directly from IREDA
(ii)	Solar Air Heating Systems	Rs. 800/- per sq.m. of solar collector area	As at (i) (b) and (c) above.
(iii)	Solar Stills	Rs. 500/- per sq.m. of aperture area	

Statement-II

Solar Energy Systems Installed in various States and Union Territories
(As on 30.9.1996)

SI. No.	Name of state/ Union Territory	Solar Thermal Energy Systems		Solar Photovoltaic Systems				
		Solar Cooker (Nos.)	Solar Thermal System (Area in sq.m.)	Lighting SL (Nos.)	Lighting HLS (Nos.)	Lighting SLS (Nos.)	Power plants (KWP)	Water Pump (Nos.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10035	7534	5963	730	2932	17.60	345
2.	Assam	80	586	175	700	98	1.00	45
3.	Bihar	730	2614	5800	6	619	—	86
4.	Delhi	27747	21931	4508	—	371	5.00	33
5.	Gujarat	39266	69800	3663	370	1564	14.00	16
6.	Himachal Pradesh	21478	4611	6000	934	304	—	1
7.	Haryana	16218	7544	5018	6	577	24.30	16
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	345	1914	2625	1051	889	—	15
9.	Kerala	188	2734	9810	965	513	4.70	240
10.	Karnataka	250	50260	300	—	441	—	93
11.	Madhya Pradesh	158301	38158	1348	183	5427	9.00	11
12.	Maharashtra	47760	39257	3792	72	2941	6.44	102
13.	Orissa	2444	2459	1846	252	2036	33.52	1
14.	Punjab	11872	9102	682	—	60	2.00	77
15.	Rajasthan	33339	5169	722	—	5545	113.50	121
16.	Tamil Nadu	1351	26478	889	50	1940	26.00	424
17.	Uttar Pradesh	31933	27932	28250	35585	470	419.00	62
18.	West Bengal	5446	9991	2102	1202	952	42.10	42
19.	Manipur	272	349	767	—	351	5.03	1
20.	Meghalaya	1064	1280	2055	230	500	30.50	—
21.	Nagaland	—	100		8	271	6.00	—
22.	Tripura	6	232	230	798	248	25.85	—
23.	Andaman & NA	106	100	234	390	315	129.12	5
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	355	463	1518	52	728	7.90	—
25.	Dadra & NH	81	92	—	—	—	—	1
26.	Goa (RDA)	1267	1083	—	31	30	1.70	14
27.	Chandigarh	1358	1738	—	—	—	—	7
28.	Lakshadweep	—	—	442	—	514	25.00	—
29.	Pondicherry	74	1485	215	—	—	—	14
30.	Mizoram	118	83	560	1901	233	—	6
31.	Sikkim	20	298	196	31	93	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu							
33.	IREDA	—	15152					—
34.	Misc. through other agencies	—	6772					—
	Total:	413504	354456	89718	45514	31042	949.20	1778

SL—Solar Lantern
HLS—Home Lighting System
SLS—Street Lighting System